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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Shingo ODAJIMA, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/532,506

GROUP: 1714

FILED: January 12, 2006

EXAMINER:

FOR: WAX COMPOSITION AND PROCESS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

LETTER

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith is a European Office Action for the Examiner's consideration. The reference(s) cited therein have been previously filed on April 25, 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,

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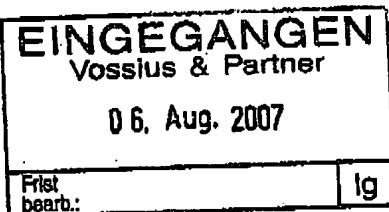
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Application No. 03 758 776.3 - 1214	Ref. L 1610EP	Date 30.07.2007
Applicant KAO CORPORATION		

Communication pursuant to Article 96(2) EPC

The examination of the above-identified application has revealed that it does not meet the requirements of the European Patent Convention for the reasons enclosed herewith. If the deficiencies indicated are not rectified the application may be refused pursuant to Article 97(1) EPC.

You are invited to file your observations and insofar as the deficiencies are such as to be rectifiable, to correct the indicated deficiencies within a period

of 4 months

from the notification of this communication, this period being computed in accordance with Rules 78(2) and 83(2) and (4) EPC.

One set of amendments to the description, claims and drawings is to be filed within the said period on separate sheets (Rule 36(1) EPC).

Failure to comply with this invitation in due time will result in the application being deemed to be withdrawn (Article 98(3) EPC).



Hillebrand, Gerhard
Primary Examiner
for the Examining Division

Enclosure(s): 2 page/s reasons (Form 2906)

**Bescheld/Protokoll (Anlage)****Communication/Minutes (Annex)****Notification/Procès-verbal (Annexe)**Datum
Date 30.07.2007
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Sheet 1
FeuilleAnmelde-Nr.:
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Demande n°:

The examination is being carried out on the following application documents:

Description, Pages

1-42 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-25 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/4-4/4 as originally filed

1. Documents

- D1: JP-A-7 278 510 24 October 1995
- D2: JP 58 013 699 A 26 January 1983
- D3: JP 50 007 802 A 27 January 1975
- D4: JP 57 032 447 A 22 February 1982
- D5: JP-A-5 339 557 21 December 1993
- D6: JP 2001 288295 A 16 October 2001
- D7: JP 2002 266284 A 18 September 2002
- D8: JP 2003 005431 A 08 January 2003
- D9: JP 2002 072559 A 12 March 2002

2. Clarity

a)

Having regard to Rule 29(2) it does not appear to be expedient to have more than one independent claim per category. In the present case the amount of independent claims is

**Bescheld/Protokoll (Anlage)****Communication/Minutes (Annex)****Notification/Procès-verbal (Annexe)**Datum
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Demande n°:

confusing and makes it difficult to determine the subject-matter for which protection is sought. The number of independent claims is limited to one independent claim in each category (Art. 84 EPC; Guidelines C III 3.2 and T56/01).

At present claims 1,6,7,9,17 and 24 are formulated as independent claims.

b)

Terms like "biodegradable" are vague and relative terms, as every polymer is depending on circumstances more or less biodegradable. Thus independent claims 6,7 and 9 lack clarity.

3. Novelty and inventive step

The applicants attention is drawn to the IPER and the International Search Report.

With regard to the relevance of documents D1-D6 and D8 the applicant is hereby requested to file translations of these documents into one of the official languages of the EPO.

4. Others

To meet the requirements of Rule 27(1) EPC, the documents D1-D9 should be identified in the description and the relevant background art disclosed therein should be briefly summarised in an objective way.